

(approved January 11, 2001)

**BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 9, 2000

**AIRTEL PLAZA AND CONFERENCE CENTER
7277 VALJEAN AVENUE
VAN NUYS, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Selma Fields, MFT Member Committee Chair
Christina Chen, Public Member
Howard Stein, Public Member
Virginia Laurence, LCSW Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Pines, MFT Member

STAFF PRESENT

Sherry Mehl, Executive Officer
LaVonne Powell, Legal Counsel
Julie McAuliffe, Administrative Analyst

GUEST LIST ON FILE

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Fields stated that due to lack of a quorum for the Board meeting, the meeting would be held as a Committee meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HOWARD STEIN MOVED, CHRISTINA CHEN SECONDED, AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 24, 2000 MINUTES.

2. EXAMINATION STATISTICS

The most current examination statistics were included in the meeting materials. Ms. Mehl provided a brief overview of the statistics and indicated that the statistics are broken down by license type as well as school pass rates.

Ms. Chen thanked Ms. Mehl and staff for the statistics.

Ms. Mehl then stated that these statistics are always available on the website and are mailed if requested. It is made clear that no one should draw any type of conclusions or make any statements based on these statistics because they do not include any specific statistical profile information or analysis.

Audience member Myrna Specktor addressed the Committee. Ms Specktor stated that she took the written and oral examinations in 1998. She indicating that people in her study group who had taken the exam four and six times were foreign-born people. She has witnessed the enormous struggle these people have had because of language barriers and the need to translate their language thought process into the English language. She would not like to see the Board limit the number of times one can take an examination. She stated that learning the English language is a very long process and it may take foreign-born people numerous times in the examination process to be successful in obtaining licensure.

Ms. Specktor then indicated that the examination process was a very powerful and positive learning experience for her.

Dr. Stein asked Ms. Spector how she thought the Board could improve the examination.

Ms. Specktor replied that she began her examination process in 1994 and found that the Board's openness throughout the examination process, the feedback she received, the newsletter, and the examination statistics that are provided were very helpful to her. She thought than an individual's ability to network is very important to the success in the examination process. She did understand that the Board is limited on what can be done for foreign-born candidates but thought that the rate of openness the Board has had has been very crucial to the success of many candidates.

Audience member Ruth Wildhorn stated that she was an oral examiner in the 1970's and 1980's. She thought that the openness between the schools has been very important and that schools should create a greater sensitivity to people who do not speak English as their first language. She then suggested that there should be a publication of services that are offered to non-English speaking people to assist them in the thought process necessary for licensure.

Steven Gibson, LCSW, asked if translators were allowed. Ms. Mehl explained that non-English speaking candidates are accommodated with extra time in the examination process.

Ms. Fields asked that the Board continue to look at this issue in the future.

The meeting was closed at 10:05 a.m.